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Linglens

Context-aware word and phrase explanations in your language, powered by your own API key.



About

Linglens is a context-aware AI dictionary Chrome extension that explains selected words and phrases in the language you read best. It works on the page you are already viewing, so a term is explained where it appears instead of in isolation. The extension is built for BYOK use: you connect your own API key from providers such as OpenAI, Anthropic, Google Gemini, DeepSeek, or an OpenAI-compatible endpoint, including local models. Linglens also keeps the flow private by sending requests from your browser to the provider you choose, with no account required and no server-side relay.

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Linglens

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Linglens is a Chrome extension for context-aware term explanations on the page you are reading. It is designed as an AI dictionary for technical and general web content, but it is not a generic translation tool: it focuses on the selected word or phrase and explains what it means **in that specific context**. That makes Linglens useful when a term changes meaning from one document to another, such as a developer word in a CI guide, a frontend term in a UI article, or an unfamiliar phrase in a research note.

The extension is built around a bring-your-own-key model. You supply your own LLM API key, choose the provider, and the extension uses that connection to generate the explanation. The public listing says it supports OpenAI, Anthropic, Google Gemini, DeepSeek, and other OpenAI-compatible endpoints, including local models. Linglens also returns the explanation in the language you configure, so it can function as a multilingual AI dictionary rather than an English-only helper.

Key features

Linglens is focused on a small set of features that support a fast lookup workflow:

Context-grounded explanations: select a term on a web page and ask the app to explain it based on the surrounding page content.

Language choice: responses come back in the language you set, with examples shown for English, , , and more.

BYOK provider support: use your own key from OpenAI, Anthropic, Google Gemini, DeepSeek, or a compatible local or hosted endpoint.

Private-by-design flow: the listing says there are no accounts, no servers, and no tracking.

Click-to-run behavior: a selection alone does not send data; the LLM call happens only after you click the extension icon.

Follow-up conversation: you can ask a follow-up in the popup and keep the thread going.

Provider token counts: the app shows real token counts reported by the provider for each explanation.

Open source: the listing identifies Linglens as open source.

For people who want a quick term explainer, the main value is that Linglens turns a



Linglens

How to use it

Using Linglens is straightforward, but it depends on your own API setup.

Install the Chrome extension from the Chrome Web Store.

Add your API key for the provider you want to use.

Set your preferred response language so explanations appear in the language you read best.

Highlight a word or phrase on any web page.

Click the extension icon to trigger the explanation.

Read the contextual answer in the popup and continue the thread if you need a follow-up.

A practical Linglens workflow is to use it while reading documentation, research posts, product specs, or support articles where a single term can carry a specialized meaning. Because the extension is page-grounded, it is more useful when you need a contextual explanation than when you need a broad encyclopedia-style definition.

Who it is for

Linglens fits readers who work across languages and technical contexts. It is especially relevant for:

Developers and engineers who need a quick AI dictionary while reading docs, RFCs, API references, or implementation guides.

Multilingual readers who want explanations in their own language instead of defaulting to English.

Privacy-conscious users who want a BYOK workflow and prefer their key and request path to stay under their control.

People who use local models and want an extension that can point to an OpenAI-compatible endpoint rather than only one vendor.

Teams and solo learners who need a lightweight term explainer instead of a full document summarizer.

If you often stop to search what a term means in the context of the page you are reading,

What to know before you use it

Linglens is useful, but it has a few important limits.

You need your own API key. The app is not described as offering a built-in free model or included credits.

It runs in Chrome as an extension. The listing is for the Chrome Web Store, so browser support beyond Chrome is unknown from the source.

It explains selected terms, not whole pages. If you want a page translation or a full-document summary, Linglens is not positioned as that kind of tool.

Accuracy depends on the model and the provider. Because it uses your chosen LLM endpoint, quality will vary with the model you connect.

Official sources still matter. For compliance text, medical content, legal language, or product policies, use Linglens as a reading aid and verify against the original source or official documentation.

No selection means no request. The listing says merely highlighting text does not send anything until you click the icon, which helps avoid accidental usage, but you still need to understand your provider's billing rules.

Linglens is best thought of as a private, contextual AI dictionary for the web: quick, multilingual, and driven by your own key. If that is the workflow you need, Linglens is a strong fit; if you need translation, summarization, or official interpretation, you should use the right source for that job.

FAQ

What is Linglens for?

What does Linglens do?

Is Linglens free to use?

Do I need an API key to use Linglens?

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Linglens

Which AI providers does Lintlens support?

Which platforms does Lintlens support?

Does Lintlens collect any personal data?

How does Lintlens protect my privacy?

How does Lintlens explain text?

Is Lintlens free?

Can I use my own model with Lintlens?

Can I use Lintlens in my native language?

Can I use Lintlens with a local model?

Who should use Lintlens?

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